



A question and answer session with Director Aron Gaudet and Producer Gita Pullapilly of the award-winning Maine-based documentary film, *The Way We Get By* at the Strand Theatre, Rockland, Maine. Photo: Sean Carnell

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

AWARDS NEARLY \$100,000 IN GRANTS TO MAINE COMMUNITIES

Fourteen Maine communities will receive just under \$100,000 in grant funds aimed at strengthening local arts organizations in Maine. The communities stretch from Lille, in the St. John Valley, to Stonington and Portland. Three local arts organizations will be using funds to enhance their presence on the internet. *L'association culturelle et historique du Mont-Carmel*, in Lille, will use funds to develop a website showcasing its collection of religious and historical materials from the St. John Valley. The museum's physical presence is in the imposing twin-tower structure of Notre Dame du Mont-Carmel, a former Catholic church built in 1909 on the northern edge of Maine. The web museum will make artifacts from Acadian and Quebecois culture accessible via the internet.

The Portland Chamber Music Festival will be revamping its website at www.pcmf.org. In addition to keeping its audience informed about the festival, the website will provide links to other performing arts organizations in the Portland area, including PortOpera, Friends of the Kotschmar Organ and the Choral Arts Society.

Writing will be the focus of a project sponsored by Add Verb Productions in Portland. Add Verb Productions will develop online and networking tools for its Queer and Allied Writing Project. The project will support the development of plays, monologues and poetry that will build, strengthen and sustain Maine's youth gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer community.

In Camden, the Camden International Film Festival will be working through Maine Media Workshops to strengthen its infrastructure by adding professional staff, developing a board and implementing an effort to acquire 501(c) 3 nonprofit status. The festival currently operates on an informal basis, without nonprofit status. Festival organizers see the improved administrative infrastructure and nonprofit status as essential to the festival's growth.

Opera House Arts, in Stonington, also plans to develop a position for a program director, as well as two paid internships as part of a major effort to move into a second decade. A new development position will be created at the Tides Institute.



Portland Chamber Music Festival performers (left to right) Andrus Madsen, harp-sichord; Alison Harney, violin; Michael Kannen, cello; and Peggy Pearson, oboe in concert at the Abromson Community Education Center in Portland.

Photo: Russ Burleigh



Staff of the Tides Institute and the Maine Arts Commission on the roof of the institute during reconstruction.

The Camden International Film Festival (CIFF) is proud to be recognized for its dedication to developing Maine communities through arts and culture. It's our mission to generate interest in independent documentary film, examining our cultural landscape through nonfiction storytellers from Maine and beyond. This grant will ensure the creation of a sustainable organizational structure that will allow CIFF to continue its growth and impact in the Maine arts community.

Ben Fowlie, CIFF Founder and Director

In tough times, fund-raising and marketing are also on the minds of some local arts organizations. After receiving recognition from the New England Museum Association for the catalog for its recent *Portraits and Voices* exhibit, Museum L-A is pressing forward with a feasibility study for a capital campaign, while Portland's Telling Room is developing a long-term fund-raising plan. An umbrella marketing plan will be the focus of efforts in Bangor. The project will develop a marketing plan

serving eight cultural organizations in Bangor. The project will include a logo that can be used by all of the organizations, a website and a brochure that will promote all of the cultural entities in Bangor. In Bath, meanwhile, cultural organizations are partnering with Regional School District 1 to create a strategic plan for arts and culture collaboration in the community. Similarly, the Eastport Arts Center, in Eastport, will use grant funds to conduct a strategic planning retreat. //